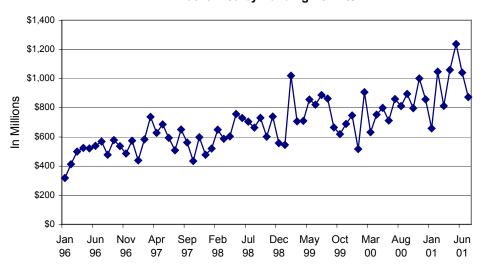
AUGUST 2001 HIGHLIGHTS

Construction activity for the month totaled \$872.6 million; 502 municipalities reported. New houses and work on existing ones accounted for \$450.7 million (51.6 percent). Nonresidential activity amounted to \$421.9 million (48.4 percent). August activity was 16.1 percent less than last month and 1.5 percent more than this time last year.

Estimated Cost of Construction Authorized by Building Permits



Top Municipalities

Jersey City in Hudson County and Newark in Essex County led all municipalities with \$33.4 million and \$33 million, respectively. Residential construction accounted for about two-thirds of all authorized work in both cities. These two cities were among the top municipalities with the most new houses for the month. Newark led all localities with 261 new dwellings. Most of these were single-family homes or duplexes. Franklin Township in Somerset County had 141 authorized dwellings, most of which were multifamily units. Jersey City ranked third for the month with 123 new dwellings. A single structure accounted for 105 of these units.

Other top municipalities in August were Bridgewater Township and Branchburg Township in Somerset County (\$21.7 million and \$16.9 million), Galloway Township in Atlantic County (\$14 million), Cranbury Township in Middlesex County (\$13.1 million), and Scotch Plains in Union County (\$13.1 million). Most of the work in Bridgewater was for new offices or alterations and tenant fit-ups to existing office buildings. The big developments in Branchburg were alterations to the public elementary and middle schools. A new, \$11.7-million assisted-living facility with nursing home beds accounted for most of the activity in Galloway, and an \$11.5-million warehouse for an auto distributor comprised most of the work in Cranbury. The big projects in Scotch Plains were alterations to elementary and middle schools.

i